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DISSEMINATION

for EGYPT file

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Egyptian Support for the US Military in the Middle East Goes Above and Beyond

- The Arab Republic of Egypt remains a key U.S. ally in the fight against extremism in the region.
- As a strong supporter of the Middle East Peace Process, Egypt has deployed a 750-man border guard unit along the Israeli Gaza-Egyptian Sinai border to secure the Rafah crossing against attempts of smuggling and infiltration.
- Egypt's position as protector of the Suez Canal and gateway to the Middle East has contributed greatly to Coalition efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan, as *it provides protection for US naval ships in the Suez*:
 - Hundreds of Suez Canal transits and thousands of overflights have expedited U.S. military operations in CENTCOM's Area of Responsibility.
 - In support of Operation Enduring Freedom:
 - Egypt expedited 1142 US naval transits (85 nuclear) through the Suez Canal,
 - Egypt provided overflight permission to 41,536 military aircraft,
 - And in addition provided over 63 million liters of fuel for US aircraft.
- In Afghanistan, Egypt provided a field hospital instructed Afghan medical personnel to improve their skills, and donated small arms and ammunition to the Afghan military.
- After Turkey denied use of their territory in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Egypt provided strategic lift of the US 4th infantry division through the Suez Canal:
 - From January 1, 2003 to August 15, 2007, Egypt expedited 1052 US naval transits (71 nuclear) through the Suez Canal.
 - Egypt also provided 30,508 overflight permissions in addition to 28.5 million liters of fuel for US aircraft.

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- Egypt trained Iraqi army and police personnel, and offered to train more.
- Finally, in May 2007, Egypt hosted the first Iraq Neighbors conference at Sharm El-Sheikh.
- In November 2007, Egypt hosted the biennial BRIGHT STAR combined military exercise, Central Command's largest training event, with troops from 13 countries, including the US, France, Britain, Greece, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Jordan, and Kuwait. For the first time, Pakistan, Turkey, and Yemen also joined in.
- Egyptian security forces have been diligent partners in combating extremist networks, as the nation itself has been the victim of terror attacks.
- Continued Foreign Military Financing, Foreign Military Sales and International Military Education and Training funding are needed to develop and modernize forces that contribute significantly to stability in the critical Suez Canal area and the Levant.